

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 07023 290243Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMO-01 PER-01 ABF-01 SS-15 SP-02
/035 W

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R 281532Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBAYSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3205

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 7023

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDSO
TAGS: AODE, AFSP, APER
SUBJECT: MODE STAFF REDUCTION

REF: STATE 185440

1. THE EMBAYSY HAS REVIEWED ITS PRECIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS
IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT'S CONTINUING POLICY
OF MAINTAINING THE NUMBER OF USG EMPLOYEES ABROAD AT A
MINIMUM LEVEL CONSISTENT WITH OVERALL U.S. NATIONAL
OBJECTIVES. IN ADDITION THE EMBASSY RECONFIRMS ITS
EARLIER JUDGEMENT THAT CARACAS IS MUCH LESS SUITABLE POST THAN
OTHERS IN THE AREA FOR LOCATING REGIONAL OFFICES
BECAUSE OF A) THE EXTREMELY HIGH COST OF MAINTAINING USG
EMPLOYEES HERE, AND B) THE VERY FREQUENT DIFFICULTY ENCOUNTERED
IN OBTAINING TIMELY AIR TRAVEL RESERVATIONS OUT OF AND INTO
VENEZUELA. ON THIS BASIS, OUR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED REDUCTIONS
AND AGENCY RESPONSES (WHERE RECEIVED) FOLLOW:

2. ICA: WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO JUDGE WHETHER THE
REGIONAL LIBRARIAN COULD OPERATE AS EFFICIENTLY IF BASED
IN WASHINGTON AS OPPOSED TO ANOTHER REGIONAL LOCATION. IN ANY
CASE, WE REITERATE OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT
THE POSITION BE REMOVED FROM CARACAS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A
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NET COST SAVING TO USG.

3. DAO : SINCE THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY
ABOLISHED THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT NAVAL ATTACHE, THE EMBASSY
CURRENTLY RECOMMENDS THAT ONLY ONE ADDITIONAL
AMERICAN POSITION (ASSISTANT ARMY ATTACHE) BE ABOLISHED. IN
CARACAS 11474 (1977), THE EMBASSY WITHDREW ITS EARLIER RECOMMEND-

ATION THAT AN ADDITIONAL AMERICAN ENLISTED POSITION BE ELIMINATED.
RECENT STATE INSPECTION TEAM RECOMMENDED THAT ASSISTANT
ARMY ATTACHE POSITION BE REDUCED ONLY AFTER THE
COM WAS SATISFIED THAT COVERAGE OF AND LIWISON WITH
NATIONAL CONSTABULARY FORCE (NATIONAL GUARD) COULD BE
ADEQUATELY CONTINUED. IN VIEW OF THE RECENT INCREASE IN
CONTACTS WITH THE NATIONAL GUARD BY THE EMBASSY POLITICAL SECTION
AND BY DEA, THE CHARGE IS SO SATISFIED.

4. IRS: THE EMBASSY CONTINUEY TO SEE NO JUSTIFICATIONHFOR
THEHPRESENT OF THIS OFFICE AND ITS FOUR AMERICAN POSITIONS
HERE WHICH IS NOT OUTWEIGHED BY THE SAVINGS WHICH WOULD ACCRUZ
TO THE USG BY ITS REMOVAL TO WASHINGTON OR TO A CHEAPER
WND MORE CONVENIENT ALTERNATIVE LOCATION IN THE AREA.
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